

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following  
the Baptism of Our Lord (January 8<sup>th</sup> – January 14<sup>th</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

*What is the Office of the Keys?*

### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: God the Son – God in the Flesh**

Wrapped up in the flesh and blood of that baby boy born in Bethlehem is the fullness of God. True God had taken on flesh and was now dwelling among us, as one of us. No bit of his divinity was left behind or forfeited even as He was wrapped in his swaddling clothes, suckled at the breast of Mary, or needed to have his diaper changed. As He grew up He would also grow in wisdom and stature, became hungry, sad, angry, and every other mood which is common to our human experience. For not only was He true God; he was also true man. In Jesus we see two natures—divine and human—united in one person. The Two Natures of Christ will be the subject of this week's devotional material. God bless your time in His Word!

**Invocation:** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed**

**The Catechism:** *What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

<b>Daily Readings</b>	<b>Catechetical Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Baptism of Our Lord Matthew 3:13-17</b>	<b>Genesis 48</b>	<b>Psalm 19</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>The Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:17-21</b>	<b>Genesis 49</b>	<b>Psalm 20</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>I Shall Be Whiter Than Snow Psalm 51:7-15</b>	<b>Genesis 50</b>	<b>Psalm 21</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>The Healing of the Paralytic Matthew 9:1-8</b>	<b>Exodus 1</b>	<b>Psalm 22</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Consider My Affliction Psalm 25:17-22</b>	<b>Exodus 2</b>	<b>Psalm 23</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Blessed Is the One Psalm 32:1-5</b>	<b>Exodus 3</b>	<b>Psalm 24</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Exodus 33:12-23</b>	<b>Ephesians 5:22-33</b>	<b>Psalm 25</b>

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### Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** If a person is in Christ, what old stuff has passed away? What does it mean to be reconciled to God? What message were the apostles entrusted with? **Tues:** How is white snow a picture of the forgiveness we have in Christ? Who makes us white? How do we know that we are clean and forgiven? **Wed:** What is most important, to be healed of paralysis, or to be forgiven? Who alone has authority to forgive sins? What then does this story reveal about Jesus? **Thurs:** What will bring a person out of his or her tribulation? Despite his affliction and trouble, what does the psalmist ask the LORD to grant him? **Fri:** Based on this psalm, what sort of person is blessed? To whom is forgiveness given (see v.5)? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. (Psalm 32:1-2)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**For Those Who Mourn:** The family and friends of Verdell Hermsmeyer. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Marla Corry, Lynn Michael, Adrienne Childress (mother of David Childress). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Alan Kleiboeker, Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), Roger & Marilyn Sullens (father & mother of Linda Reckling). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz.

### The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

**Hymn of the Week:** To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord (LSB 406)